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NATIONAL

‘Baby Jessica,’ now 40, arrested following domestic disturbance in Texas

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By Kia America (Advertisement)

by: Erica Miller
Posted: Apr 13, 2026 / 04:51 PM EDT
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MIDLAND COUNTY, Texas (KMID/KPEJ) – Jessica McClure Morales, who became famous as “Baby Jessica” after her 1987 rescue from a well, was arrested Saturday night following a reported domestic disturbance at her home in Midland County, Texas, according to authorities.

Deputies with the Midland County Sheriff’s Office responded to a residence just before 10 p.m. Arrest records indicate Morales, 40, was taken into custody at the

ily injury involving family violence.

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Jessica McClure Morales was arrested in Midland County, Texas. (Photo: Midland County Jail)

Officials have released limited information about the incident. Midland County said it may take up to 10 days to process a request for the arrest affidavit, which is expected to provide additional details about what led to the charge.

Morales was later released from the Midland County Detention Center after posting bond. The amount of the bond has not been disclosed.

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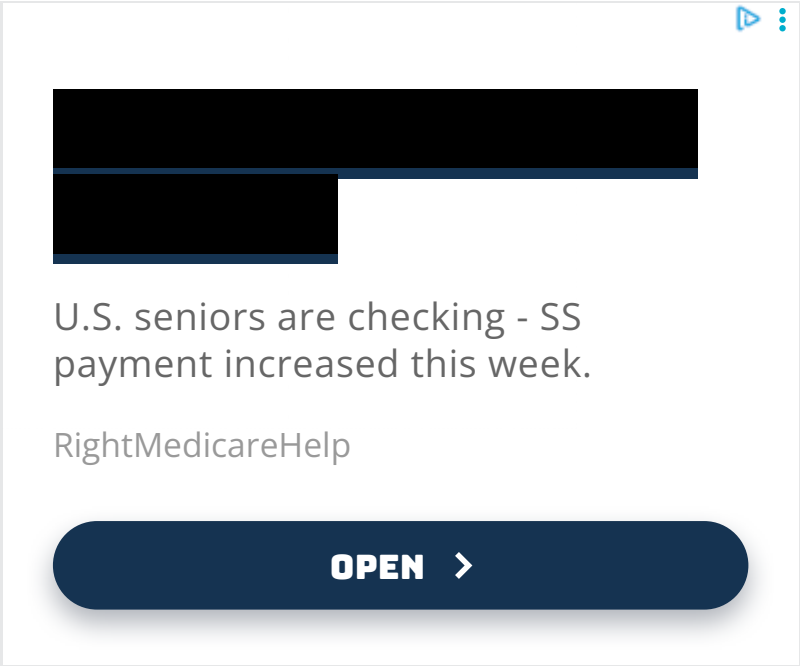
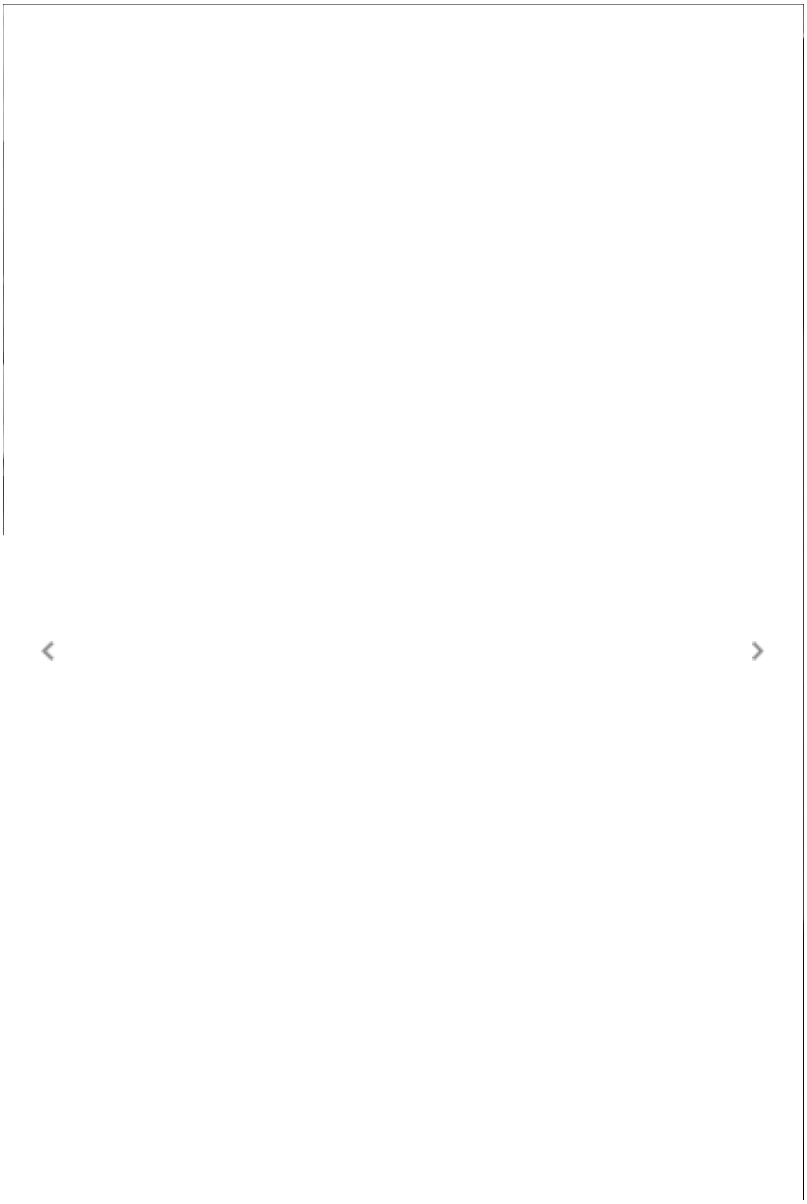


Morales gained international attention as an infant in 1987, when she fell into an eight-inch-wide well at her aunt's home in Midland.

At just 18 months old, she became the focus of a dramatic, nearly 60-hour rescue effort that captivated the nation and drew global media coverage. Trapped approximately 22 feet underground, she remained lodged in the narrow well as

emergency crews worked around the clock to reach her.

Rescuers ultimately drilled a parallel shaft and a horizontal tunnel through rock to access the well. The effort required specialized techniques, including waterjet cutting, after traditional equipment proved ineffective in the dense terrain.



During the rescue, crews reportedly heard the toddler singing, a moment that underscored both the tension and hope surrounding the operation.

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Paramedic Robert O’Donnell eventually navigated the cramped tunnel to reach her. Nearly 60 hours after her fall, she was lifted to safety and rushed to a hospital.

The successful rescue sparked widespread celebration across Midland and beyond, with residents recalling cheers echoing through the city as news spread.

Morales underwent multiple surgeries following the incident due to injuries sustained while trapped, though she has said in past interviews she does not remember her ordeal.

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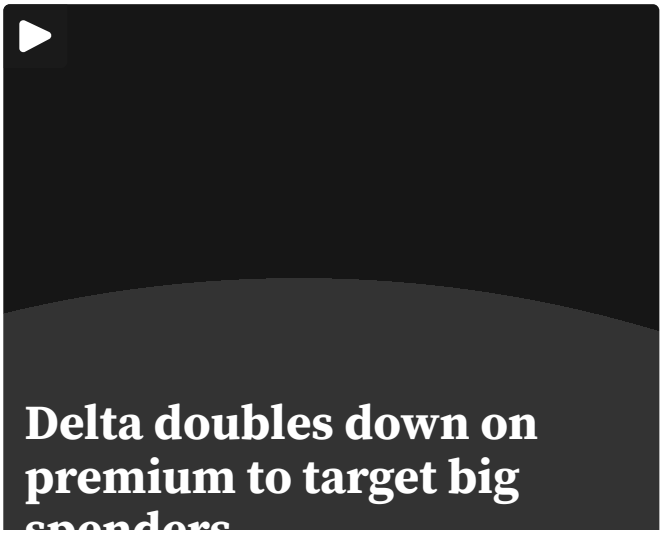

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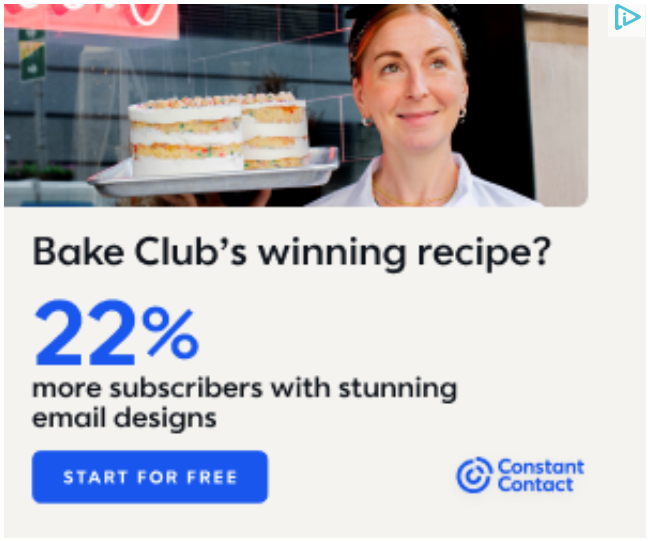

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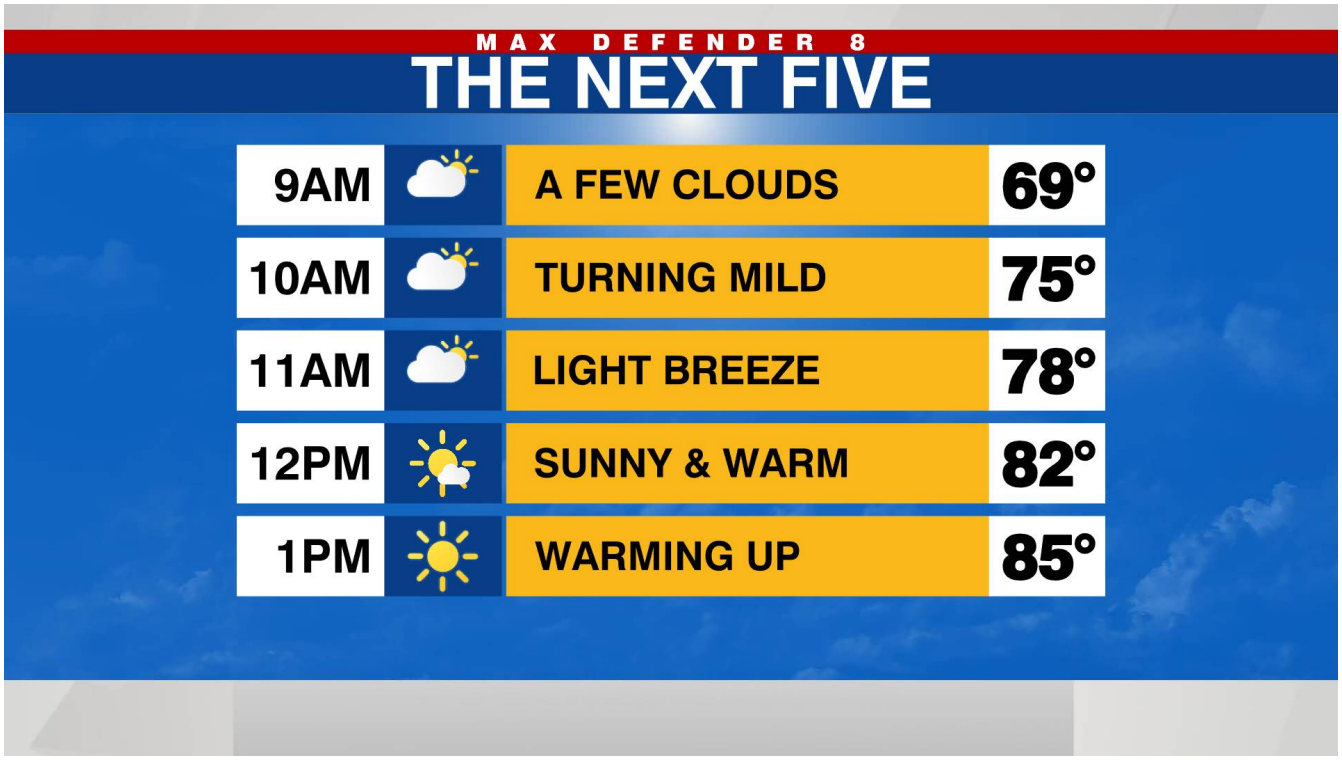
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